

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pearson Hall, Pearson Road, Sonning, on Tuesday 11 January 2011 at 8.00pm.

PRESENT.

Mr K Peters (Chairman), Mr J S Chapman, Mr P J Doyle, Mr C McCulloch, M/S S Robinson, Mr I Runnalls, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were accepted from Mr M Green (unwell), Mr A E Farnese (previous engagement), M/S V Reeve (unwell). The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year.

7777: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

A typo was corrected and the Minutes, having been amended and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

7778: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

On planning application discussions, since Cllr. Chapman was a member of the Borough Council's Planning Committee, his views were expressed on the limited information before him only. He would reserve judgement and the independence to make up his own mind on each separate proposal as and when it came before the Borough's Planning Committee and heard all the relevant information. He would not in any way commit himself as to how he or others might vote when the committee came to consider a proposal. There were no other Declarations.

7779: CORRESPONDENCE.

British Legion. Information had been received regarding a fundraising weekend 10-12 June.

Rat Infestation. The secretary of the Robert Palmer Almshouse Trust had responded to the Clerk's letter regarding rats. Having investigated, and found no sign of rat infestation, they would take no further action.

Pearson Hall Road Marking. The Pearson Hall wished to have a road marking to indicate that the car access to the Cottage should be left clear. It was agreed that SPC could not support the addition of any road markings.

Hope to Albania Garden Party 16 July. A request for the Council's support in 2011 had been received. This had been a success in 2010, rising £800. It was agreed that there were no objections and it did not appear to clash with any other known event in Sonning.

7780: PLANNING.

Planning List. Mr Doyle said that there were one or two applications that had been outstanding for some time. The issue of site contamination at 47 Old Bath Road remained unresolved. The eco house to be built on the South Meadow Cottage site might be considered worthy of inclusion in the extended Conservation Area. Mr Doyle had spoken against the application at 103 Pound Lane and the WBC Planning had agreed to make a site visit on 29 January. Permitted development rights had been removed when permission was granted. The SPC Planning Committee had agreed to say no comment on 6 South Drive. Mr Doyle had received a message for Marcia Head to say that WBC was in discussion with the owner of the Model Farm Barn. The owner had asked for more time to find alternative accommodation for his tenants and WBC were minded to allow this. There was concern that this could drag on

7780: PLANNING (Cont'd).

indefinitely, unless a deadline was set. Mr Doyle agreed to contact Marcia Head regarding this. The Inspectors report, when dismissing the appeal at the Old Dairy, had stated that the proposal itself was acceptable and had dismissed the appeal on the grounds of poor access. This had implications for other backland development in the area. Mr Doyle had spoken to the owner of Bishops Close who now said that the plastic screening would remain in place. There were landscape proposals, which the owner wished to share with SPC. It was agreed that Mr Doyle should invite the owner to the February meeting. The security notices on the boundary would come down once the entrance gates were re-erected. Mr Doyle said it was interesting to note that Mark Cupit (WBC Head of Development Planning) had said that if the WBC Planning Committee approved an application, which the officers were recommending for refusal, it would set a precedent, something, which he had always said, did not exist in planning terms. News of the appeal at Birchley was awaited. The development at 24 West Drive had not been built according to the plans. Mr Doyle would circulate photographs, which the Clerk would copy to Marcia Head and Laura Callan asking for this to be investigated. WBC had informed the applicant that the change of roof design at Greendown was a material change and a planning application was required.

The following new applications had been received: Sonning Golf Club (F/2010/2583) Refurbishment and extension to clubhouse to include new pro shop and balcony new starters hut new garden wall and associated external works new 4 bay members practice range, 6 South Drive (F/2010/2635) Erection of two storey/single storey front rear and side extensions (following removal of existing single storey side extension) plus roof conversion with rear dormer window, 4 Glebe Lane (F/2010/2750) Erection of 2 storey side/rear extensions plus single storey side extension. (Demolition of existing garage), 30 Glebe Lane (F/2010/2841) Erection of first floor side extension, conversion of loft to habitable accommodation insertion of rear dormer window plus erection of front porch extension.

The following appeals had been dismissed: The Old Dairy.

The following applications were ongoing: School Cottage, Thames Street (F/2010/2671). St. Andrews Church (C/2010/1343): Greendown (C/2010/1365): 45 Old Bath Road (F/2008/1303): Unit 4 The Old Forge C/2008/1793: Land adj. 7 South Drive Sonning (C/2008/2365): Bishops Close Sonning Lane (C/2008/2617): The Green Cottage (C/2009/1144): 45 Old Bath Road (C/2009/1600): 5 South Drive Sonning (F/2009/2463): Lilac Cottage (C/2010/0500): 43 Shelton West Drive (C/2010/0705): 5 Old Bath Road (NMT/2010/1711): South Meadow Cottage (C/2010/1813): 103a Pound Lane (F/2010/2361): Weir House, Sonning Lock (F/2010/2231)

7781: SONNING CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

Mr Doyle had met Mr O'Callaghan and agreed that the Conservation Area would be divided into smaller areas for the assessment process. The sewage and aquatic centres would be included. The intention was to look into the possibility of enlarging the CA

7782: BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Cllr Chapman said that WBC would hold their budget meeting on 12 January. There had been a proposal to increase the charges for some WBC car parks but this had been amended. The government's initial plan to abolish the Planning Inspectorate had been turned around and was to stay. The Standards Board for England was to be abolished. In its place new legislation would make it a criminal offence not to declare an interest. Residents

7782: BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

would now have the power to veto excessive Council Tax. Cllr Chapman said that Devolving powers might be difficult for small Councils and careful consideration should be given to the reasons for taking on any responsibility. Mr Runnalls asked if WBC were following up on the recent theft of gully covers. Cllr Chapman said that there had been 30 such thefts in the WBC area. The Chairman said that the service provided by the dustmen over the Christmas periods had been excellent and it was agreed that the Clerk should thank Mr Bavystock.

7783: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

7784: FINANCE.

- a) Report. A report had been circulated and was noted. Mr Chapman said it would be important for the interest from Santander to be kept separate from other funds and used for capital expenditure together with the £70,000 allotment money.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr McCulloch proposed and Ms Robinson seconded approving the following payments and this was approved with Mr Chapman abstaining.

December

Sonning Landscapes Mow Wharf & Rec	102.00
Mr P Doyle Paint Telephone Kiosk	47.00
Thames - Water Pavilion	24.16
Thames - Water Square	151.63
Thames - Water Allotments	95.98
Mrs R Hulley – Litter Nov part	57.90
Shaw & Sons – Minute Binder	70.09
Mr S Chapman – Coblands Trees	192.79
Mrs L A Bates – Honorarium	2571.85
Mrs L A Bates – Telephone	40.00
Mrs L A Bates – Salt Bins	415.95
Sonning Landscapes – Mowing Wharf	26.00
Peppard Building Supplies - Salt	<u>281.41</u>
	4076.76

- c) Upgrading Office Equipment. As Mr Green was absent this item was held over to the February meeting.

7785: HIGHWAYS.

HGV Survey. The Chairman said that, of the seven vehicles identified on 19 October, two were not overweight but the other five had been forwarded for prosecution. During a further survey on 15 December only three vehicles had been identified as overweight and had been submitted for prosecution. The Chairman clarified the fines situation. There would be £125 costs with a maximum fine of £1000 (taken as a percentage of income plus £15 surcharge), most fines were between £300 and £400 but the driver’s driving licence would not be endorsed. The ANPR cameras were now in place and a meeting between the ANPR managers and Trading Standards would be set up in order to discuss ways of working together. Mr Runnalls asked about the Lafarge lorry seen driving through Sonning. The Chairman had spoken to the site manager who needed the licence plate number in order to identify the

7785: HIGHWAYS (Cont’d).

driver. Lafarge were now aware that SPC knew that their lorries were crossing the bridge; it might be possible to see the licence plate on the ANPR camera. The Chairman said that there

were now fourteen volunteers for the HGV survey team including one lady. The Chairman had heard nothing from Sgt. Mark Smith regarding the Community Speed Watch but it was now known that the volunteers had to be covered by £5 million Public liability Insurance cover.

A4 Speed Limit. The Chairman said that SPC had asked WBC to reduce the speed to 30mph from the top of Shepherds Hill to beyond Sonning Lane. Mr Chapman would e-mail Matt Davey about this and copy to Keith Baker and the Earley Councillor. If the 30mph was extended to the Pound Lane roundabout the 20mph zone in Pound Lane could be extended the whole length of Pound Lane.

Sonning Lane/A4 Junction. A plan showing the proposed work, planned for 24 January, had been received. Some revision to the road signs was required and the Chairman would ask WBC to include a 'straight on for Sonning Bridge' sign at Sonning Lane and a 'Sonning Bridge' sign at Pound Lane. He would also ask for a sign to indicate that cameras protected the Bridge. The Chairman said that he would be delaying the Highways meeting scheduled for 17 January. Mr McCulloch asked about mobile activated signs to enforce the 20mph zones. The Chairman said that they cost in the region of £5000 and would be controlled by WBC who moved them to another location every two weeks. The Chairman would discuss his earlier suggestion about sharing a mobile sign with another parish with Julia Tredwell.

7786: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G.

Report. Mr Chapman said that the Clerk had circulated the Minutes of the last Recreation Working Group meeting and these were noted.

S106. The play equipment element could not go towards organised games so the cricket/football clubs were unlikely to benefit. There was no issue about SPC receiving the £2460 for play maintenance but the £11407 would have to be justified. Items likely to receive S106 money were: extension to the safety netting (SPC had previously approved this): hard-standing for the seats in the playground: hard-standing for the practice nets next to the playground: new equipment, which might include two new seats and an outdoor table tennis table. Mr Chapman would obtain a list of contractors from WBC in order for the Clerk to obtain quotes for the safety netting. Mr Chapman proposed that, subject to WBC agreement that S106 money could be used, the safety netting should be extended, hard-standing installed once the old seats had been relocated and new seats installed, Mr McCulloch seconded and this was unanimously approved. The Clerk would obtain quotes.

Pavilion Kitchen. Mr Chapman had three quotes for the new kitchen, if a dishwasher were included the cost was likely to be £5,500, but this might be negotiable. Mr Chapman proposed progressing the fine detail with B&Q (lowest quote and well recommended), after SCC's input, Mr Doyle seconded and this was unanimously approved.

Mr Chapman said he thought that developers would challenge WBC if the S106 money could not be spent in the parish affected by the development.

Safety Checks. Mr Chapman provided the Clerk with an up to date report.

7787: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Update. In the absence of Mr Farnese there was no report. Mr Doyle had identified a local supplier, Street Furnishings Ltd and proposed spending £211.50 each, plus VAT, for three new signs in Thames Street, Mr Chapman seconded and this was unanimously approved. The

7787: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd).

Clerk said that Mr Farnese had said that the footpath on the Wharf was in poor condition and the contractors had not repaired the damage to the grass. Mr Green would be asked to check this out.

Mr Farnese had suggested the week-end, 2/3 April, for the Spring Clean and this was agreed.

7788: POLICE AND SECURITY.

In the absence of Mr Green there was no report but it was noted that there had been one break-in. Following discussion the Clerk agreed to write to Inspector Binns asking if there was news of a replacement for PC Neblett and PCSO Anne Chalmers.

7789: WEB SITE.

Ms Robinson said that Dr Robinson had been ill but was following up costs for recording the visitors hit rate. A new photograph was required for the home page and Mr McCulloch would send some samples to Ms Robinson. The Chairman asked if it would be possible to record other activities of those visiting the web site. Ms Robinson would check this out.

7790: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

7791: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 February at 8.0pm in the Pearson Hall.

Signed..... Dated.....